

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) as set forth below.

1-18 (canceled)

19. (new) A method of structuring contents of an unstructured domain so as to impart value to the domain, comprising the steps of:

identifying a plurality of elements of information associated with an unstructured domain;
developing an initial domain model for utilizing the plurality of elements of information associated with the domain to create value;
developing an estimate of costs associated with developing a knowledge map cataloging and describing at least some of said elements of information associated with the domain, and developing an estimate of the value of said knowledge map;
comparing the estimates of costs and value and, based on said comparison, performing at least one of the steps of:
storing and maintaining said model and said plurality of elements of information; and
developing and storing the knowledge map so as to add structure and impart value to said domain.

20. (new) The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of developing an initial domain model comprises at least one of the steps of defining an organizational scope, defining a content scope, defining a process scope, and defining economic factors relating to the domain.

21. (new) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of defining the organizational scope comprises the step of identifying elements of an organization affected by one or more of the plurality of elements of information associated with the domain.

22. (new) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of defining the content scope comprises the step of identifying at least some of the plurality of elements of information as one of explicit content and implicit content.

23. (new) The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of identifying at least some of the plurality of elements as explicit content further comprises identifying at least some of said elements of information as at least one of online information and offline information.

24. (new) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of defining a process scope comprises the step of identifying a business process that can be improved by structuring contents of the unstructured domain.

25. (new) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of defining economic factors includes at least one of the steps of identifying costs associated with identifying and gathering at least some of the plurality of elements of information associated with the domain, identifying costs associated with detecting errors and taking actions to avoid and correct errors, identifying communication costs, and identifying costs associated with maintaining the plurality of elements of information.

26. (new) The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of defining economic factors further comprises developing an economic model for use in developing the estimates of costs and value associated with developing the knowledge map.

27. (new) The method of Claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
developing an estimate of costs associated with developing a knowledge clearing house, which provides centralized access to online elements of information associated with the domain and a cataloging of offline elements of information associated with the domain, and developing an estimate of the value of said knowledge clearing house;

comparing the estimates of costs and value developed in connection with the knowledge clearing house and, based on said comparison, performing at least one of the steps of:

storing and maintaining the model, said plurality of elements of information, and said knowledge map; and
developing and storing the knowledge clearing house so as to add structure and impart value to said domain.

28. (new) The method of Claim 27, wherein the step of determining an estimate of the value of said knowledge clearing house comprises the step of creating a model for determining how additional value will be created by structuring the domain beyond the knowledge map.

29. (new) The method of Claim 27, wherein said knowledge clearing house provides direct access to explicit content of the domain.

30. (new) The method of Claim 27, wherein said knowledge clearing house comprises offline content, software components, and online content.

31. (new) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the steps of:
developing an estimate of costs associated with developing a knowledge network and developing an estimate of the value of said knowledge network;

comparing the estimates of costs and value developed in connection with the knowledge network and based upon said comparison, performing at least one of the steps of:

storing and maintaining the model, said plurality of elements of information, said knowledge map and said knowledge clearing house; and

developing and storing the knowledge network so
as to add structure and impart value to said domain.

32. (new) The method of Claim 31, wherein said knowledge network comprises a software component for providing mediated access to and managing collaboration with experts, and for providing meeting management tools.